

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 278933

FOR ASST SECY VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK ELECTIONS

FOLLOWING IS A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE  
GREEK ELECTIONS WHICH WAS PREPARED IN EUR AND PROVIDED TO  
THE ACTING SECRETARY NOV 21:

BEGIN TEXT: IN SUNDAY'S GREEK ELECTIONS, PRIME MINISTER  
KARAMANLIS CLEARLY FAILED TO ACHIEVE THE POPULAR MANDATE  
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HE HAD BEEN SEEKING. HIS NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY WILL RETAIN  
AN ABSOLUTE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, BUT ANDREAS PAPAN-  
DREOU'S LEFT-SOCIALIST PARTY WITH 25 PERCENT OF THE POPU-  
LAR VOTE NEARLY DOUBLED ITS 1974 TOTALS AND WILL HAVE  
ALMOST 1/3 OF THE SEATS IN THE GREEK PARLIAMENT.

PAPANDREOU'S RISE TO BE KARAMANLIS' CHIEF POLITICAL OPPO-

NENT AND POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR HAS COME ABOUT LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE VIRTUAL COLLAPSE OF THE CENTER UNION GROUPING (THE LIBERALS) UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GEORGE MAVROS. THE RESULT IS A POLARIZATION OF GREEK POLITICS INTO SHARPLY OPPOSING CAMPS, PROMISING FOUR YEARS OF PARLIAMENTARY FIREWORKS, AND A DISQUIETING SIGN FOR THE LONG-TERM STABILITY OF GREEK DEMOCRACY.

KARAMANLIS' REDUCED MARGIN WILL CAUSE HIM TROUBLE IN COPING WITH THE NATIONAL ISSUES WHICH HE CITED AS REASONS FOR CALLING THE NOVEMBER 20 ELECTIONS. KARAMANLIS CAN, IF HE CHOOSES, PURSUE HIS POLICIES OF RECONCILIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND NATO, BUT HE WILL CERTAINLY DO SO WITH HIS CUSTOMARY CAUTION, AND IN THE FACE OF INCREASED PUBLIC ATTACKS BY PAPANDREOU. KARAMANLIS MAY BE TEMPTED TO CONTACT THE TURKS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD AND NEGOTIATE A SECRET SETTLEMENT OF AEGEAN QUESTIONS, IF ONLY TO LESSEN THE GROWING PUBLIC ANTI-TURKISH CLAMOR IN GREECE. BUT ON CYPRUS, KARAMANLIS WILL GROW EVEN MORE WARY OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT, FEARING A PAPANDREOU ALLIANCE WITH KYPRIANOU AND HIS LEFTIST COLLEAGUES ON THE ISLAND.

ALL OF THIS WILL MAKE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT NERVOUS AND EVEN LESS WILLING THAN IT HAS BEEN TO DATE TO COME FORTH WITH NEGOTIABLE POSITIONS ON CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN. THE WESTERN EUROPEANS WILL GROW EQUALLY EDGY AND WILL SEE IN

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PAPANDREOU'S RESURGENCE PROOF THAT THEY SHOULD MOVE SLOWLY IN ACCEPTING GREECE AS A FULL EEC PARTNER.

THE LEFTIST VOTE IN GREECE BEFORE 1974 WAS TRADITIONALLY AROUND 30 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. IT WON A FEW PERCENTAGE POINTS MORE THIS YEAR. THE RIGHT IN GREECE SIMILARLY ALMOST ALWAYS WINS ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT, THEREFORE, IN THE 1977 ELECTIONS IS THE RETURN TO TRADITIONAL GREEK VOTING PATTERNS. IF THE GREEK RIGHT AND CENTER CAN FIND A SUCCESSOR TO KARAMANLIS IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, ITS HOLD ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE SECURE. IF IT CANNOT, THEN PAPANDREOU COULD BECOME KARAMANLIS' SUCCESSOR, NOT BECAUSE HE WILL EVER WIN MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF THE GREEK VOTE, BUT BECAUSE THERE WILL BE NO SINGLE GREEK POLITICIAN OF THE RIGHT OR CENTER WHO CAN HOLD THE CONSERVATIVE 50 PERCENT VOTE TOGETHER. END TEXT. HABIB

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PINT, GR, (PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS), (KARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE)  
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